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EPA SEEKS ACCESS TO WAUKEGAN HARBOR, IL

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region V Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus today announced that the Agency is filing a motion in U.S. District Court to dismiss a suit brought by Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) to deny EPA access to the Superfund site in Waukegan, IL.

Also, because of OMC's refusal to give EPA access to its property, EPA is forced to shift \$10 million ear-marked for the cleanup of the harbor to other Superfund projects. The cleanup was to have started September 1985. EPA retains the funds allocated for designing the cleanup once access is obtained.

Adamkus said: "EPA has made this decision because OMC has obstructed progress at every opportunity for the last seven years. OMC would rather spend money on legal fees than meet its responsibility to clean up the harbor."

The OMC site, near the intersection of Grand Avenue and Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL, is on the National Priorities List. There are at least 1.1 million pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) distributed about the site. Movement of PCBs through the groundwater, surface water, and past direct discharges have contributed to the contamination of Waukegan Harbor.

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In May 1984, EPA developed a conceptual plan to clean up the Superfund site, which is now estimated to cost \$27 million. To successfully implement the cleanup, EPA sought access to perform soil borings and establish land markers to complete the engineering design.

OMC denied EPA access to the site. EPA sought to obtain access by way of a court-ordered warrant which OMC did not honor. OMC has filed suit against EPA to prevent access for both the design and implementation of the cleanup action. Action taken today by EPA requests that the OMC suit be dismissed.

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